

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT

The Halifax Herald has found the answer for the eight hundred thousand dollar increase in the sales of liquor in this province in 1939. We quote, "It is difficult to believe that more liquor was consumed in Nova Scotia in 1939 than in previous years. Therefore it may be a fair conclusion that, as a result of R.C.M.P. activity against illegal liquor operations, greater recourse has been had by the public to Government Stores. In years gone by the consumption of illegal liquor in this Province has represented a very large outlay of money; and it is altogether possible that the reason suggested herein may provide the explanation of these latest legal liquor figures." Well! WELL! The Herald's explanation is naive to say the least. Surely the Editor is not serious. Government Sale has been in operation for more than ten years. What grounds has the Herald for this sudden activity of the Mounties in 1939? On the contrary, we insist we have sufficient proof of increased drinking on the part of our people not only from personal observation but within the report of the Liquor Commission itself. The proof is therefore two-fold, 1 The increased number of permits issued. It is a well known fact that patrons of bootleggers hold permits from the Commission in order to protect themselves. Bootleggers' customers did not rush for permits this year, they always had them. Therefore the permits must have been largely issued to a new crop of drinkers. 2. There has been a definite increase of drinking among drinkers. This is proven by science and common sense. Alcohol is a habit forming drug and demands more and more to satisfy the craving. In going around the province we find many wives and mothers who also testify to this fact. Their loved ones are more and more becoming addicts of alcohol. No, Mr. Editor, a sudden increase of activity on the part of the Mounties does not account for the \$800,000.00 increase in legal liquor sales. We would that this were so, but we are convinced the real cause of the increase IS INCREASED DRINKING AMONG CERTAIN CLASSES OF YOUNG PEOPLE, LABORING MEN, AND SOCIALITES. Rather than trying to furnish an excuse for the enormous increase in sales by trotting out that hardy perennial which has been cultivated by the booze interests for the past ten years, the Herald editor should continue his crusade against drink.—Forward.

MENDING TROUSERS

Two pastors' wives, says "Western Christian Union," were visiting together. One said: "I don't know what we shall do—my husband is so discouraged. Somehow his people do not care to hear him preach, and our salary is far behind. My husband feels so blue that he does not like to visit the people and pray with them; and so he sits around at home nearly all the time."

The other sister said: "We are getting along fine. My husband spends much of his time visiting, and the people like to have him kneel and pray with them in their homes. Our congregations are always good, and our salary is paid up promptly."

While the two sisters were talking they were mending trousers. One was mending her husband's trousers at the seat; the other was mending her husband's trousers at the knees.—S. S. Times.

TESTIMONIES CONCERNING PRAYER

From the Holiness Era

Martin Luther, one of the leading reformers of the sixteenth century, said: "If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer." His motto was: "He that has prayed well has studied well."

In faith, he was as fervent as any crusader in the heat of conflict. The time of prayer was his supreme hour. Every prayer was an importunity. He would not think of silence, much less refusal. He argued with God, and showed Him how unlike Himself it would be not to grant his petitions. He caught hold of the very robe of the Master, and would not let it go. Or, rather, he violently grasped the divine arm with both hands, and held it until his prayer was answered. He had the habit of recording his wants in the form of a catalogue, and taking them to God in order, as petitions which God could hardly be true to His own honor if He failed to answer."—From a Short History of the Christian Church, by Hurst.

An illustrious example of constancy and power in prayer, we find in John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. He spent two hours daily in prayer, beginning at four o'clock in the morning. One who knew him well wrote of him, "He thought prayer to be more his business than anything else, and I have seen him come out of his closet with a serenity of face next to shining."

At times he would gather his company and pray all night, or till the power of God came down. Nothing was considered too great or too small to take to the Lord. Seized with a pain in the midst of his preaching, so that he could not speak, "I know my remedy," he said, and immediately knelt down. In a moment the pain was gone, and the voice of the Lord cried aloud to sinners.

Wesley moved things mightily, because he moved God mightily. He became the prince of evangelists, because he was the prince of prayers. He stirred the world with the fire of his zeal, because he had stirred heaven by the fire of his prayers. His pleas had access to men's consciences, because they had access to God. If more men prayed as John Wesley prayed there would be more of John Wesley's thoroughly spiritual work done.—Prevailing Prayer, by Weigle.

Among the mighty men of faith and prayer whose names will stand forth until the world's history is completed, is that of John Knox. The days of turbulence developed his holy zeal and courage. Summoned before the highest of earth's great ones, true everywhere to God, and a man mighty in prayer, Queen Mary of Scotland once said that she feared his prayers more than an army of ten thousand men. On England's throne sat Mary, the daughter of Henry VIII., who had been brought up by her mother, Catherine of Aragon, in the dark faith of Rome, a complete tool in the hands of the priests, whose one design was to destroy the Protestants. Soon the pails were filled, the fires kindled in Smithfield, and the whole land was one of desolation, and the protestants were hunted as partridges on

the mountains. The great heart of John Knox was stirred. On his face and knees for hours before God he pleaded for Scotland. "Give me Scotland or I die!" was his ceaseless cry.

In one of these seasons of mighty taking hold of God he sprang to his feet with the cry: "Deliverance has come! Deliverance has come!" As soon as the courier could speed his way from London to the city where John Knox lived, he made the proclamation: "Mary, Queen of England, is dead."

Adoniram Judson, the God-chosen apostle to Burma, became one of the greatest of all American missionaries. He was successful and one of the few men who mightily impressed the world for Christ because he gave much time to pray. He laid the foundations of God's Kingdom with imperishable granite in the heart of Burma. He kept the iron red-hot with prayer, and God's skill fashioned it with enduring power. He said concerning prayer "Arrange thy affairs, if possible, so that thou canst leisurely devote two or three hours every day, not merely to devotional exercises, but to the very act of secret prayer and communion with God."—From Preacher and Prayer by Bounds.

Abraham Lincoln was a man of prayer. When in sore straits as to what course to pursue during the Civil War, he went to God in prayer, and often remarked that he could not have succeeded in his great task without divine guidance. Dr. Anderson, a former president of Chicago University, relates the following story: There was a nurse in our family who was employed in the Lincoln family during the illness of the President's son. One morning, having left the sick room for a few moments, she was just returning when to her surprise, she heard a voice in the room. Looking in she beheld Mr. Lincoln kneeling by the bedside engaged in prayer. "O God, Thou knowest how the cares of state weigh and how because of it I have not been the father I should have been. O great Father, spare the boy and forgive me for the sin."—M. P. Boynton.

THE ISSUE WELL STATED

Congressman Martin Dies, Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, said in a recent issue of Liberty: "As Christ symbolized the noblest and highest conceptions of spiritual perfection, so does Karl Marx represent the lowest form of materialism. The two, therefore, stand at opposite poles, and their teachings are as far apart as the sky and the earth. To Marx, man at his best was merely an intelligent animal, or no more importance than the beasts of the field. To Christ, man was the noblest handiwork of God. Therefore I perceived some years ago that the irreconcilable conflict between the teachings of Christ and Marx constitutes the most serious and far-reaching issue before the world today."

A DIVINE MISSION

Know that life is a divine mission, for which you have received and shall receive divine power, your work without bondage to small scruples and in freedom from outer bonds. We want to live the noblest, fullest, richest, and most useful life possible to us. What helps us to that, let us take; what hinders that refuse.—T. Rhondda Williams.